

"Sin nature" and "Sins"

Romans 5:12-14 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

John 9:34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

Romans 8:13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Read Romans 5:12-14. How did *sin*, sometimes referred to as "original sin" get started? _____

Adam's sin was the act of wanting knowledge of "good and evil" (Genesis 2:17) to be *like* God (Genesis 3>4). This prideful desire is simple human nature.

How soon is a person "infected" with sin? _____
(Psalms 51:5, John 9:34)

2 Corinthians 5:21 says Jesus was made to be sin for us. How did He do this?

Even though it is just how we are (our nature) this sin does not excuse us from being: _____ (Romans 8:23)

Sins, according to Romans 8:13 are the _____ of our sinful nature.

What are some of the *misdeeds* (sins) listed in Galatians 5:19-21? Sins are just the outward symptoms of a sinful nature.

According to James 2:10, how many sins can you get away with before you are guilty of breaking the law?

When we speak of the *sinful nature* or "original sin" we are not saying that a person has ever done anything wrong (sinned: a deed). The misunderstanding of these two terms often leads us to wonder about God's justice if He can condemn to hell those people who have never done anything wrong.

Romans 3:23 "...*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*"

The Bible (Romans 3:23) makes it quite clear that no one escapes the *wages* of sin. You are condemned as a sinner just by being a fallen human being. A person can only be save by consciously accepting Christ as their savior.

Before we go on to page two keep this in mind: ***To hold a belief as true it must conform to scripture. If we find that we have a belief that is clearly contradicted by the Bible we must change our belief, no matter how unjust it seems to be.***

Infant Salvation

Psalms 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 139:15-16 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise' ?"

Acts 16:31-34 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

The thought that God could condemn an innocent baby to the fires of hell is simply too hard to reconcile with our belief in a "loving" God.

The doctrine of infant salvation appears to require that children are conceived saved, then remain saved until they reach a certain age, at which point they become lost. But scripture teaches we're conceived lost and remain lost until we become saved."¹

That's the bad news. Here's the good news:

Psalms 51:4 -God never makes mistakes.

Romans 8:38-39 says nothing can separate God from his children.

Psalms 139:16 says God knows us and everything we're going to do even before we are born.

Our salvation is known before we are born.

Ephesians 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Matthew 19:14 and 18:10 tells of Jesus' special love for kids.

Jesus, quoting Psalms 8:2, in Matthew 21:16 says that infants are able to, and made to, give praise to God. This implies that infants unconsciously have knowledge of God.

Luke 1:15 says that John the Baptist was "filled with the holy Spirit even from birth." This is a very interesting verse.

The story of the jailer in Acts 16:31-34 implies that the jailer made the decision for his entire family to be Christians.

For these reasons I believe that all those intended for heaven will be in heaven. Beyond that it is not my place to draw conclusions or to hazard judgments.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹ Randy Alcorn, Heaven. Copyright 2004, by Eternal Perspective Ministries, page 340

Lesson Plan: Sin nature & sins; infant salvation

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to give the kids all of the Biblical support to both sides of the issue concerning infant salvation. Hopefully they will then be able to create an informed opinion of their own.

Preparation:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. You might want to teach this as two separate lessons. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you'd like to bring up.

Download and read Randy Alcorn's article from his website Eternal Perspective Ministries at this URL:
http://www.epm.org/artman2/publish/eternity_children/Do_infants_go_to_heaven_when_they_die.shtml

Pre-Lesson Activity:

Sometimes I play "Simon says" to illustrate James 2:10 that messing up just once and you're done.

Leading the lesson:

Have a kid read the first set of verses. Make sure they understand all of the words and the meaning of the verse. You may have to restate the verse in your own words a second time.

Ask the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. If your group is younger teens have them fill in the blanks. If your group is mainly High School age just use the questions as discussion starters.

Unlike most of my lessons there are only a few blanks to be filled in. This is because of the sensitivity of the subject. After they read the verse, read the statement of the matching color that refers to the verse. Go slowly and give them time to reflect.

You might also bring a copy of Randy Alcorn's book where the quote come from as well as a copy of his article

Summary:

Finish by reading Isaiah 55:8-9. This may be a verse overused by lazy Christians who don't want to do the work of digging into a tough subject. However, not all issues require us to take a firm (often divisive) stance one way or the other. I believe this may be one of those issues where this verse applies.

Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week. Write down specific concerns so you can follow up with them.